



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 15, 2006

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**GOVERNOR ROMNEY CONVENES THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
COASTAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

With over 1,500 miles of coastline, Massachusetts is vulnerable to the damaging impact of northeasters and hurricanes, and experiences regular storm damage from even minor storms. In an effort to improve Massachusetts' coastal preparedness Governor Mitt Romney today announces the creation of a Coastal Hazards Management Commission (CHMC) to review existing coast hazards, practices and policies, identify data and information gaps, and draft recommendations for administrative, regulatory, and statutory changes to our coastal guidelines.

Governor Mitt Romney and Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard, are developing guidelines to prevent and mitigate storm damage through new environmental regulations and planning that guide development away from coastal areas, enhance current coast infrastructure to protect existing development and focus on coastal hazards.

To formulate the environmental guidelines the CHMC will review Massachusetts' vulnerability to coastal hazards, the adequacy of coastal hazards data, tools, regulations, best management practices for development in coastal flood or erosion prone areas and will evaluate management approaches to coastal hazards. The CHMC will initiate the creation of a 20 year Coastal Infrastructure and Protection Plan for the Cape and Islands, South Shore, Boston Harbor and North Shore regions. The CHMC will then make recommendations as they deem necessary and appropriate.

The Commission will begin to review existing guidelines in early 2006 and will conclude recommendations by November 2006. Final completion of plans are scheduled for November 2007.

"The Massachusetts coastline has long been a vital resource both economically and culturally to the citizens of the Commonwealth," said Governor Mitt Romney. "This

Commission will give us a solid understanding of our current coastal challenges, new guidelines to restore and protect our natural coastal environment and the long-term planning that is imperative to ensure our coast's continued vitality.”

Governor Romney's Commission includes State Representatives, Senators, and staff from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency who are familiar with coastal planning along with staff from the Executive Office of Administration and Finance. Susan Snow-Cotter of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) has been appointed as Chair on behalf of Secretary Pritchard.

“Our coastal region is a valuable asset to our Commonwealth which must be maintained and protected,” said Pritchard. “The CHMC initiated by Governor Romney will provide the means to take inventory of our current coastal challenges and establish new guidelines to protect our natural coastal environment in the future. It will also help prepare us for the effects of hazardous New England weather by focusing on coastal flooding, erosion and sea wall maintenance.”

The CHMC will file a coastal hazards management plan including legislative funding recommendations within in 180 days of the appointment of the committee.

The following images were taken from the Power Point presentation given at the kickoff meeting of the Massachusetts Coastal Hazards Management Commission.

## Geology and Coastal Processes



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## Salisbury Beach





# Issues



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